

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 092125
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R 110038Z APM 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:ETRD, NI

SUBJECT: METRIC LABELING

REF: LAGOS 3059

1. SUMMARY. RENEWED NIGERIAN INSISTENCE ON SOLE METRIC MARKING WITH NO CONSIDERATION FOR DUAL LABELING DURING REASONABLE TRANSITION PERIOD HAS PROMPTED PROTESTS FROM SEVERAL U.S. FIRMS WITH GOODS CURRENTLY READY FOR SHIPMENT OR IN TRANSIT. WASHINGTON AGENCIES SHARE CONCERN ABOUT DISRUPTIVE EFFECTS WHICH THIS INTRANSIGENT ATTITUDE IS HAVING ON CURRENT EXPORTS TO NIGERIA. REQUEST EMBASSY TO CONTINUE EFFORTS TO DEMONSTRATE TO FMG THE MERITS OF DUAL MARKING, AT LEAST FOR AN EXTENDED TRANSITION PERIOD.

2. USDOC HAS RECEIVED NUMEROUS INQUIRIES DURING PAST WEEK REGARDING NIGERIAN METRIC MARKING EQUIPMENT. TWO
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COMPANIES IN PARTICULAR HAVE EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT THE REQUIREMENT WILL DAMAGE CURRENT EXPORT BUSINESS WITH NIGERIA -- PRODUCE TRADING CORPORATION (HOBOKEN, N.J.) AND MERCURY MARINE. USDOC HAS ADVISED FIRMS OF CONTENTS REFTEL AND HAS URGED THAT THEY REQUEST LOCAL AGENTS TO APPEAL DIRECTLY TO FMG. IN ADDITION, HAVE SUGGESTED THAT

LOCAL AGENTS MAY WISH TO CONTACT EMBASSY.

3. MERCURY MARINE IS PARTICULARLY CONCERNED THAT THREE CONTAINERIZED AIR SHIPMENTS IN TRANSIT AND SEVERAL OTHERS SCHEDULED FOR SEA SHIPMENT DURING WEEK OF APRIL 3 WILL BE SUBJECT TO SEIZURE. SHIPMENTS HAVE SOLE METRIC MARKINGS ON EXTERIOR OF SHIPPING CARTONS, BUT INDIVIDUAL OUTBOARD

MOTORS ARE PREPACKAGED WITH DUAL MARKINGS. REQUEST EMBASSY TO ASK APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS IF THIS LABELING SYSTEM WILL BE SUFFICIENT TO ALLOW PRODUCTS TO ENTER COUNTRY, WHEREUPON LOCAL DISTRIBUTOR CAN RELABEL GOODS. ALSO, MUST THE SOLE METRIC LABEL COVER UP ANY EXISTING DUAL LABEL? LOCAL DISTRIBUTOR FOR MERCURY MARINE IS NIGERIAN MOTORS INDUSTRIES LTD., 26 WHARF ROAD, APAPA; GERARD PERROT, GENERAL MANAGER.

4. OTHER ACTI REQUESTED. URGE EMBASSY TO CONTINUE EFFORTS TO DEMONSTRATE TO FMG THE BENEFITS OF DUAL MARKING WHEN COMPARED TO THE DISRUPTION OF NIGERIAN SUPPLIES RESULTING FROM HASTY AND ARBITRARY ENFORCEMENT OF SOLE METRIC REQUIREMENT. SHORT OF ACCEPTANCE OF PERMANENT DUAL MARKING, U.S. SHOULD PRESS FOR LENGTHY TRANSITION PERIOD. IN ADDITION, WASHINGTON AGENCIES WOULD APPRECIATE ANY FURTHER INFORMATION WHICH MAY CLARIFY PRECISE PRODUCT COVERAGE OF CURRENT REQUIREMENT, WHETHER IT APPLIES TO GOODS PRE-PACKED FOR RETAIL SALE OR ALL BULK PACKED
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GOODS AS WELL, AND TIMING FOR EXTENSION OF REQUIREMENT TO ALL OTHER PRODUCTS. VANCE

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

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